Erdman SERIES.

G.O. No. 201

DATED 12-10-1927

OM no. 1872 I/24-D 21-6-24.

In this letter read above the [illegible]
stated that he was examining the
the question of the future treatment
of the grass reserves in the Bell
DI He is requested to state at
this report on the subject may be
expected.

18.6.21

18.6.

Development D.

Refg. C. 65 letter no 1234/24 S.D.

Subject Grass Reserves - Bellany

Legislative Council

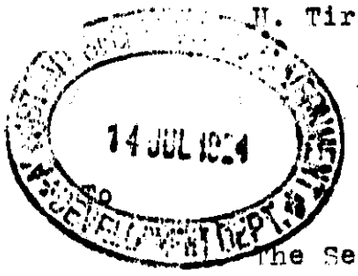
Ottawa

From

J. Tireman Esquire,

Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests,

Chepauk, M a d r a s.



To

The Secretary to Government,

Development Department,

Fort St. George, M a d r a s.

Sir,

para 1 supra

ubject: Grass reserves - Bellary District - ~~Co~~

efce: Government Memorandum No. 1872-I/24-1, dated the 21st June 1924.

The reserves in question are being worked by the Forest Department at a loss, and I am endeavouring to organise panchayats for their working. The question is complicated by the fact that the removal of the grass farms operations would in the opinion of the Collector involve considerable hardship to the local population which largely depends on the employment ~~and~~ provided in collecting grass. I recently met the Assistant Director, Grass Farms at Bangalore and asked him whether he was prepared to take over the management of the reserves. He is not. I have now directed the Conservator to discuss the question with the Collector and to report whether panchayats cannot be formed which would lease the collection of grass to the army on much the same lines as at present. On receipt of the Conservator's reply I will submit a further report.

Secrt. II-9—8,500—2-2-22.

DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No.

From

Received 192 . *Registered*

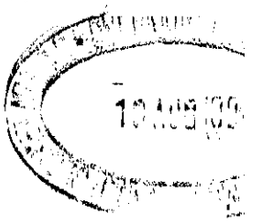
Subject.

From

H. Tirouman Esquire,
Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department.



Sir,

Subject:- Grass reserves - Bellary district.

Refee. My letter No. 9627/33-2 dated 9-7-1934.

The Conservator's report has been received; but it so inconclusive that I have been obliged to call for a further report. On receipt of this I will submit a further report to Government.

OM No 1872-I /Secy dy 26-9-24.

Ref: C.C's letter n 9627/23-4 dy 16-8-24. Grass reserves Bellary Dt

The C.C. is requested to expedite the submission of the report referred to in his above letter. As a resolution on the subject has been tabled for the next meeting of the Legislative Council, the matter should be treated as specially urgent.

GJB 26/9/24

CR
26-9-24.

CRR
26.9.24

Ref.No.9627/29-5 Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chepauk, dated 22-10-24

D 30551
28/10

From

H. Fireman Esq.,

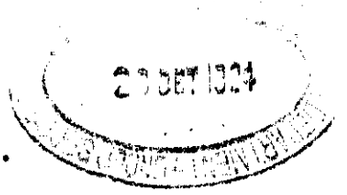
Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests,

M a d r a s.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Development Department.



Sir,

Grass reserves-Bellary District.

Refce. Government Memo No.1872-I/24-2 dated 26-9-24.

I regret that I am not yet in a position to submit anything but a very general report on the subject. The Conservator(Mr.Clear) from whom I called for a definite report has entirely misjudged what was required of him and I am compelled to refer the matter back again to his successor. The following, however, may give Government a general idea of the position.

2. The following reserves have for some time been maintained entirely for the supply of grass to the Military Grass Farms department.

(1) Joga A and B ..	3,395	acres.
2) Ublagundi North Extension ..	779	"
Total	4,174	

3. The following reserves during the last few years have been leased to Mr.Howes, a gentleman in Bellary, who collects grass from the reserves on contract for the Grass Farms department.

1. Bellary Reserved forest part (East & West)	2901	acres
2. Ublagundi ..	871	"
3. do. Extension part	372	"
4. Marutla Part ..	1241	"
Total	5385	acres

control of the Forest Depart..... over such reserves as are worked at a loss, I examined the financial results of the working of the reserves referred to above and found that if a fair proportion of the cost of the District Forest Officer and the Ranger and their offices were debited to the reserves, the result was a loss in all cases in 1922-23 and in the following year a loss in all but one case in which the profit on 3222 acres was only Rs.49. It is false economy to keep trained forest officers in charge of areas of this sort when the result is a financial loss to Govern[illegible]d I directed the Forest Panchayat Officer to ascertain whether panchayats could be formed for the management of the reserves referred to in para 3 supra.

5 As regards the reserves mentioned in para 2 supra which had been for many years leased to the Grass Farms department, I met the Assistant Director of Grass Farms in Bangalore some few months ago and asked him whether he was willing to take over the management of the reserves, the Forest department handing over the establishment now engaged in their protection. He informed me that he did not attach any great importance to them and was unwilling either to take over their management or to pay the Forest Department for the grass more than he was paying at present; he added that he was quite prepared to see them handed over to panchayats. I should have immediately proceeded to get the Forest Panchayat Officer to form panchayats for these reserves but for the fact that the Collector of Bellary (Mr.Duff) informed me that the removal of the Grass Farms from Bellary would seriously affect a large number of labourers in the locality who were dependant for their livelihood on the collection of grass for the Grass Farms Department. There did not appear to be any good reason why the handing over of the reserves to panchayat should involve the removal of the Grass Farms department from Bellary, and it seemed to me to be possible that Mr.Howes who has been in the grass business for many years should be able to co-operate with the panchayats and to continue to supply the Military Grass Farms' requirements. I accordingly asked the Conservator to discuss the matter with the Collector and Mr.Howes. A Conference was recently held at Bellary attended by the Assistant Director of Farms, Army Headquarters, the Assistant Controller of Farms, Bangalore, the Collector, the Conservator [illegible]

Mr.Howes. Mr.Clear has reported that the Farms department is willing to take over certain of the reserves if the terms were favourable and that it was suggested at the meeting that a fair annual rental would be the average royalty paid for the past 10 years which comes to Rs.1,500. He therefore proposed the handing over of these reserves to the Farms Department on an annual payment of this sum.

6 As I have already stated, Mr.Clear has entirely misunderstood the whole matter. I have more than once explained to him that I wished to know whether the reserves could be handed over to Panchayats without involving the removal of the Farms operations. The Farms department will certainly not pay Rs.1,500 (the sum they have been paying in recent years for the grass) an in addition ~~also~~ administer the reserves. They evidently want the Forest Department to go on managing the reserves for an annual sum of Rs.1,500, a sum which does not cover the cost of forest administration. I am now asking the present Conservator (Mr.Wilson) to go into the matter de novo and to report in consultation with the Collector whether it is possible to hand over the reserves to panchayats without adversely affecting the people who depend on the work of collecting grass. On receipt of the Conservator's reply I will submit a further repor

K Ramachandra 21.10.24

For Ag.Chief Conservator

23.10.24

Refce.No.9627/23-14 Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chepauk, dated 29-6-25.

1661 I
6-7-25

From

Ag. Chief Conservator of Forests,

Madras.

The Secretary to Government,

Development Department.

Sir,

Subject:- Grass reserves-Future management-Bellary.

Refce. Government Memo 1872-I/24-2 dated 26-9-24

In continuation of my letter No.9627/23 dated 22-10-24, I submit the following further report on the question of the management of the grass reserves in the Bellary District.

2. The Collector, who was again consulted, was of opinion that it was not possible to hand over to panchayats the reserves hitherto worked for grass without to some extent adversely affecting the people (Lambadies) who depended on the work of collecting grass. He did not, however, wish to press this point too far in view of the declared policy that the forests should be worked on a commercial basis. As it was not worthwhile for the Forest Department to administer these areas either for the benefit of the Military grass Farms or to keep the Lambadies engaged in work, the Conservator suggested that such of the areas the Military grass Farms wanted might be offered to them on whatever terms they would accept, the remaining areas being handed over to panchayats. By this arrangement the Forest Department would be relieved of the management of the areas, the grass would be available for the Grass Farms and the Lambadies would be provided for. As this appeared the best way of solving the problem, I have been corresponding with the Military Grass Farms on the subject. They have now agreed to take over the areas specified

(1) that the areas should be held rent free, the Military Farms Department maintaining boundaries.

Ubbalagundi	main block ..	868 acres
do.	Extension	1273 "
do.	North Extension	779 "
Marutla	..	3222 "
do.	North Extension	901 "
Joga B.	..	2095 "
		9138 "

(ii) that the areas are closed to grazing as the Military Farms Department could not conveniently cope with the collection of grazing fees from villagers.

(iii) that the Military Farms Department be permitted to clear low growing scrub as far as it may be necessary to promote the growth of grass.

(iv) that the Military Farms Department be permitted to cut any imber necessary for the erection of shelters for labourers-it will no xploit timber in any way.

(v) that the Military Farms Department protect trees as far as poss: and manage the areas by the agency of its own staff, the position of chokidars being offered to the present Forest guards.

As regards condition(ii) only portions of those areas were hither closed to grazing and as a complete closure would be a hardship to neighbouring villages, it was suggested to the Military Farms Departme that the existing practice might be continued. The Director of Farms has stated that he has no desire to be concerned in the open grazing area: These areas will therefore be handed over to panchayats.

I request that in the circumstances stated above, sanction may be accorded for handing over the areas referred to above to the Military Farms Department, the remaining areas being handed over to panchayats.

Name of reserve	Area.
Bellary East & West ..	10,152 acres
Yincheri	4,000 "
Joga A ..	1,292 "
	15,444 "

For Ag. Chief Conservator

With reference to the transfer of control of grass ~~reserves~~ in Bellary DL to the Military Farms Dept the C.C. is requested to furnish information on the following points:—

(1) Whether the Military Farms Dept proposes to manage the reserves in question

(2) Who will be in charge of these reserves.

(3) Will it be necessary to invest the Officer in charge with powers of a Forest Officer to deal with forest offences and

(4) when is the new scheme to come into force

Refce.No.9627/23-17.

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chepauk, d/14-11-25

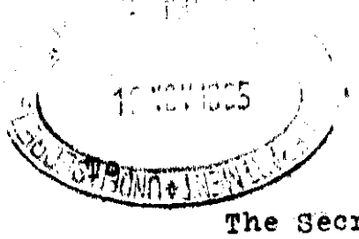
Dev: 29387
9/11/25

From

H. Tireman Esq., C.I.E.,

Chief Conservator of Forests,

Madras



The Secretary to Government,

Development Department

Sir,

Ref. Government Memo No.1872-I/24-3 dated 5-8-25
Grass reserves-Bellary-Future management.

I enclose a copy of letter from the Assistant Controller of Grass Farms, Bangalore, which furnishes the information calle for by Government.

2. The Conservator, II Circle, considers that the chowkidars who represent forest guards should have powers similar to those of a forest guard to detect and report offences committed in their jurisdiction, that the overseer in charge of Tornakallu should have ranger's powers to enquire into offences and report them to the Assistant Controller of Grass Farms, and that the latter should have the same powers of a District Forest Officer to compound, prosecute or withdraw. The Collector agrees with the Conservator. I support the proposal and submit two draft notifications for approval and publication in the Fort St.

4. The Collector has now proposed that the transfer of the areas should be subject to the condition that the Military Grass Farms shall at all times issue to the neighbouring villagers head load and cartload permits at rates not exceeding 3 pies and 5 annas respectively for the removal of hay for domestic and agricultural purposes. This condition is new and before asking the Military Grass Farms whether they have any objection to it I have directed the Conservator to report whethe the villagers enjoy this concession at present in the closed areas which alone are to be handed over to the Military Grass Farms. I shall submit a further report on the subject.

K Ramachar

For Chief Conservator

Copy of letter from the Assistant Controller of Military Grass Farms, Bangalore, No.1483/F.53 dated 12th September 25.

The general lines on which we would work the areas is noted in the Director of Farms, Simla letter No.2561/51(M.G.4) dated 12th December 1924 to you.

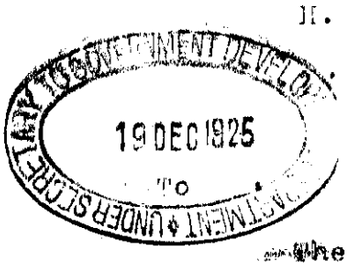
2. The question raised by you are replied to as follows:

(1) We will keep chowkidars(approximately one to each piece of land)

(2) The person in charge of the Military Grass Farm at Tornagallu will be in direct charge of these chowkidars and of the reserves.

(3) It is for you to say whether you are prepared to grant such powers. The present in charge Tornagallu is an Indian Overseer of the FarmsDepartment, a permanent subordinate in the Rs.60-2-70 rupee grade. If men of similar status in your Department have any powers to deal with minor offences, I would strongly advise that you endow our man with similar powers.

(4) The date suggested by the Conservator of Forests, II Circle, viz. 1st April 1926, is considered suit-



H. Tireman Esq., C.I.E.,

Chief Conservator of Forests,

Madras.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Development Department.

Sir,

Subject:- Grass reserves-future management-Bellary District-Grant of certain concessions.

Ref. Para 4 of my letter 9627/23-17 dated 14-11-25

Head and cart load permits at rates not exceeding 3 pies and 5 annas respectively are now issued to neighbouring villagers for domestic and agricultural purposes and the Military Grass Farms have no objection to adhere to existing arrangements. The condition proposed by the Collector may therefore be approved.

For Chief Conservator.

OM No 1872 - I/24-5 dt. 3-3-26

Ref: C.C.'s letter No 9627/26-a

15-12-26 - Grass reserves -

Bellary Dt - Future manage

The C.C. is requested to submit formal proposals after consultation with the Board of Rev for handing over all grass reserves in the Bellary Dt including those leased to Inst Houses for panch management.

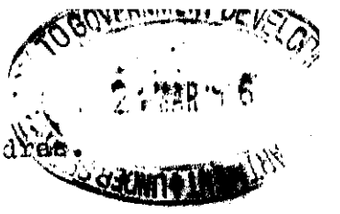
1-3-26.

23.3.26.

From

H.Tireman Esquire, C.I.E.,

Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.



To

The Secretary to the Board of Revenue,

Land Revenue and Settlement, Madras.

Sir,

Sub:- Forests - Grass reserves - Bellary - Panchayats Formation.

The grass reserves in the Bellary District named in th margin have been from time to time during the last ten years either worked by the Military Grass Farms Dept. or leased to Mr. H.W.Howes of Bellary who collects grass on contract for the Military Grass Farms Department. Of these reserves items 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 have been handed over to the Military Grass Farms Department for working during 1925-26 and item 1 has been leased to Mr. Howes till 31-8-1926. The other reserves are not being worked during the current year. The Local Committee appointed under para 4 of G.O.No. 703 dated 2-5-1925 has proposed to class all the reserves referred o except items 10. 12 and 13 as Ryot's forests.

lary East and West.
2. Mincheri
3. Ubbalagundy
4. -do- Extension
5. -do- North Extension
6. Marutla
7. Joga A
8. do. B
9. Sogi
10. Bandri
11. Chiribi
12. Kupgal
13. Banavasi
14. Thungabhadra
15. Tornagalu.

2. The Military Grass Farms Department recently ed its willingness to take over the management of

erve	868	Ac.
n	340	"
	343	"
	1241	"
	2095	"

areas specified in the margin subject to the following conditions:-

clear low growing scrub as fas it may be necessary to promot the growth of grass,

(iv) that the Military Farms Department be permitted any timber necessary for the erection of shelters for labourers - it will not exploit timber in any way.

v) that the Military Farms Department protect trees as far as possible and manage the areas by the agency of its own staff, the position of chokidars being offered to the present Forest guards.

(vi) that the Military Grass Farms Department shall at all times issue to the neighbouring villagers head load and cart load permits at rates not exceeding 3 pies and 5 as respectively for the removal of hay for domestic and agricultural purposes.

M.No 1872-I/24-6 dt 30-4-26

Ref. O.M. No 1872-I/24-5 dt 3-3-26 and C.C. letter Re No 9327/23-21 Having a Bellary forest grass-reserve to Panchayat- formal- proposal

The C

to expedite the ~~submission of formal proposals with reference to the above~~

Tkdh. 27/4/26 regarding the transfer of the reserve for panchayat management

29/4/26.

28.4.26.

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests

Ref:No. 9327/23-23.

Chepauk, Madras, dated the 5th May, 1926.

From

H. Tireman Esquire, C.I.E.,
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Chepauk, M a d r a s.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Fort St. George, Madras

Sir,

Refce: Govt. Memo. No. 1872-I/24-6 dated 30-4-1926
Grass reserves - Bellary - Transfer to panchayats.

:---:

I have requested the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue and Settlement, to obtain formal proposals from the Forest Panchayat Officer for handing over the reserves to panchayat management and forward them to me with its remarks. My reply will be submitted as soon as the Forest Panchayat Officer's proposals are received.

For Chief Conservator.